

Plans Ahead on: Petroglyph Rock in Lower Provo Canyon

Petroglyph Rock in Lower Provo Canyon

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Covered With Petroglyphs

'Y' Retrieves Canyon Sandstone

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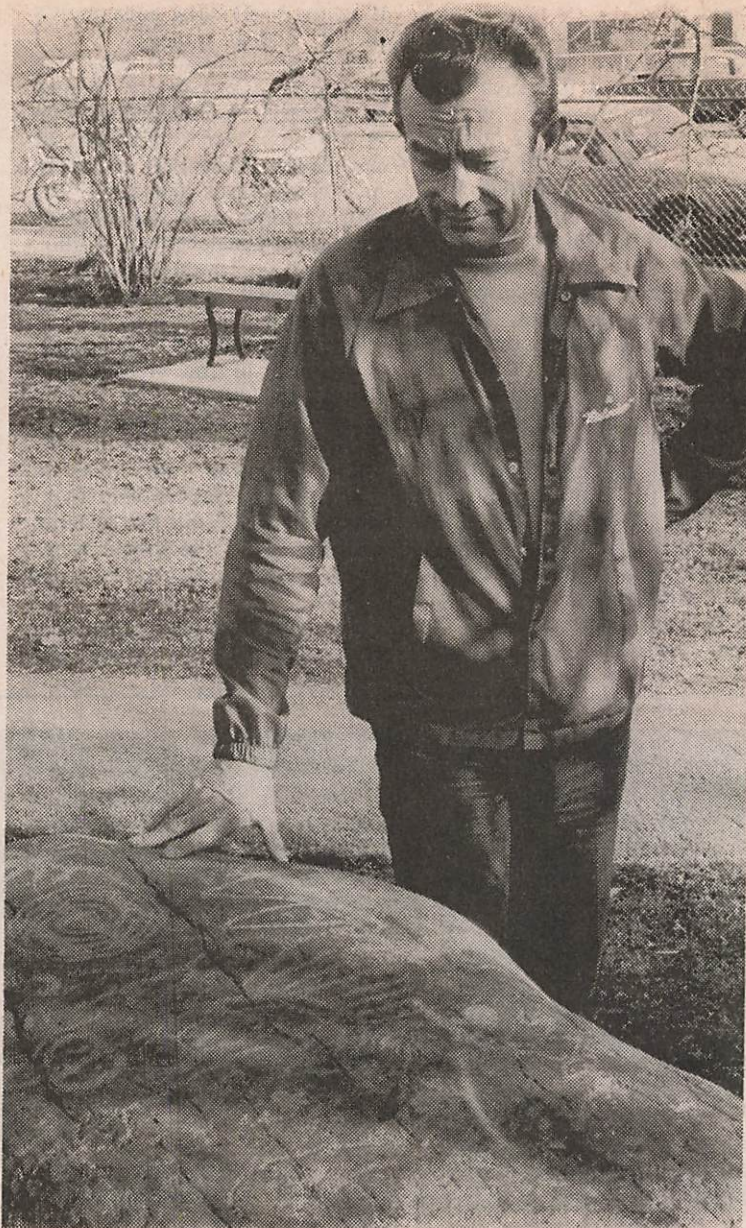
A Provo man, concerned that a mystery sandstone rock inscribed with petroglyphs would be destroyed in blasting to widen the Provo Canyon Road, is relieved to find Brigham Young University rescued the rock several years ago.

Ron Elliott, who as a youngster used to hike to the secret site with friends, worried that the rare rock would be toppled in blasting that begins this afternoon. He thought he was revealing a long-preserved secret of its existence for the first time last week when he notified The Daily Herald. But Monday, UDOT's project engineer Larry Buss said the boulder had been moved to the BYU campus about two years ago.

Saturday, fearful for the rock's fate, Elliott had huffed and puffed up the hill to where the stone had been, only to find it gone, confirming his worst fears.

"I was really upset and disappointed when I went up there and saw the ledge had been cut up. The last time I saw it was 2 1/2 years ago," he told the paper Monday morning. Hearing that UDOT had moved the rock for BYU awhile back, Elliott went to see if it was the one, and called the paper Monday afternoon to confirm it was.

"That's good; anything to save petroglyphs," said Elliott, whose college education in geology led to 25 years of rockhounding and archaeology study. Elliott ran his hands over the characters on the boulder sitting on the lawn across the street from the campus botanical gardens. It



Dennis Patterson Photos

Ron Elliott examines sandstone he has visited since boyhood.

was a happy reunion for the man who's pushing 50 years.

"I felt it should be preserved because I know of nothing else around anywhere in Utah County where there's something like it," he said.

"We are required by law to relocate Indian artifacts before we begin work," said Buss. He said the rock, estimated at about 1200 pounds, was on top of a cut UDOT is working on now, about a quarter of a mile below Murdock Dam. The \$6 million project from the Murdock Diversion Canal south to the Canyon Road-800 North intersection is the first part of a plan to upgrade the stretch of U.S. 189 through the canyon.

Elliott grew up near the mouth of Provo Canyon. A friend showed him the rock about 40 years ago, reciting legends that grew to explain the rock's mysterious existence.

"Some said it was a map of some sort or an Indian message giving directions to buried treasure or a gold mine," Elliott recalled. "There were traces of gold in a tunnel nearby that is non-existent now."

Elliott has always wondered how the hunk of sandstone got to the spot in Provo Canyon, which is predominantly shale and limestone.

Dr. Don Forsyth, of BYU's anthropology and archaeology department, said Utah Valley was heavily populated by ancient Indians, so many petroglyphs are found in spots around the valley, particularly in the West Mountain area. Generally, finders keep mum about petroglyphs, Forsyth said, "because they tend to get defaced."



was evaluated on basis of 14 criteria.

The factors included: area; necessary site improvements; highway access; necessary road improvements; sewer service; water service; natural gas; electric power; environmental constraints; EDA grant eligibility; adjacent housing quality; ownership; orientation to Brigham Young University and Utah Tech at Orem, and site environment.

"We ranked each site on those criteria from an excellent to poor with 4 being excellent and 1 being poor. A perfect score would have been 64," said Renzas.

The Gillman property scored highest with 58, then followed the Osmond property with 50, Cascades third with 46, Heathman with 44, the Lignell property fifth with 37, and the Canyon properties last with 34.

"After rating them we then looked at the top three sites more in-depth. We then found the Gillman property the most desirable for utilities, site environment is excellent, the housing availability is good. The highway access is not as desira-

ble but there are two areas on the Master Plan that will be developed into major arterials," said Renzas.

Many of the citizens opposed to the location of the park have suggested relocating it to Cascades Golf Course.

In answering that issue, Renzas said:

"We would have to extend sewer and water onto the golf course and put a four-inch gas line into the area. We would also have to relocate 12 homes and EDA grants would not be given for a project like that. We would have to construct a bridge over the Murdock Canal at 1100 N. at a cost of \$85,000. And there are multiple owners which creates a bigger headache than one single owner," said Renzas.

If relocated to Cascades that would mean a relocation of the golf course to the Gillman property. "Then the city would be taking on two major projects rather than just one and that would take needed time away from the research park development," said Renzas.

Dave Hawkins, a resident of the area near the Gillman prop-

erty, said, "I want the project in Orem 100 percent. But we want to have the city follow its own Master Plan.

If I applied for one acre of commercial in the middle of residential I'd be blasted clear to St. George. You people have multiplied this by 110 acres and it seems to be okay because it's the city and it's so big."

Several residents near the proposed park recently voiced their support for the park. Ron Wilkinson, a form president of the Orem Chamber of Commerce who lives above 1600 N., said, "I think all of the channels have been gone through. I think the question is, do we want to have 300-400 houses or a research park.

"I have petitions here signed 90 percent of the people from 400 E. to 1600 N. who are in favor of the research park being there."

Gail Bromley, who lives in the Mountain Oaks development which is near the park, said, "All but one of the people in our area are in favor of the project."

One objection voiced by several citizens in past weeks was

the issue of spot zoning. The claim is that the rezoning of 110 acres for research and development would be spot zoning.

"Spot zoning is when you are talking about 5-10 acres. Beyond that it's not a spot zone in my understanding," said James Mangum, former mayor of Orem City, currently on the CEDO board.

"If you zone it for something and it's not next to something else used for that type of development then it's a spot zone. If it's 5-10 acres it's a spot zone—anything more than that and it's a disaster," said Hawkins.

David Lisonbee, a spokesman for a citizens opposed to location of the park said the meeting with CEDO Monday was needed.

"I feel good about the things we discussed today. I only wish we would have had the meeting a long time ago before they tried to ram it down our throats.

"The city has done a terrible job of public relations here. But we are now preparing to meet with the city council and present our ideas to them."

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ms. He said if funding is available he foresees a student body of 1000-12,000 within the next 10 years. The school now serves 6,000 students.

Higbee also discussed plans for multi-purpose activity center, including an arena and theater areas. Such a facility would be available for county-wide use.

He said 67 to 75 percent of the money needed for that facility would have been raised before additional funds and approval are requested from the state legislature. Those funds would come from a variety of sources, including private donations.

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t in the long run it could expedite processing."

to file an amended return, taxpayers need to have a copy of their 1980 tax return and a Form 1040-X (Amended Return). The form 1040-X leads the taxpayer step-by-step through the amendment process.

the statute of limitations for extending any return is three years following the filing dead-



Mark Schneller Photo

Steam Roller Damaged in Provo River

Vandals apparently drove this steamroller into Provo River last night after taking it for a joy-ride near the Village Green complex at 1600 N. 200 W., Provo.

Police say they received a report Monday night at

10:50 p.m. that the steamroller was being driven in the Village Green parking lot. The machine was later found in the river, and sustained approximately \$5,000 damage. A \$500 reward is being offered for information concerning the incident.



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